Rare plant species in the Stokes County examples of this community include bear oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*) and Greenland sandwort (*Minuartia groenlandica*). The rare shinyleaf meadowsweet (*Spiraea betulifolia* ssp. *corymbosa*) occurs in transitional areas between this community and surrounding forests. The Low Elevation Rocky Summits of Stokes County are also distinctive because they contain Carolina hemlock and Catawba rhododendron. Low Elevation Rocky Summits generally grade to dry forest and woodland communities such as Piedmont Monadnock Forest, Chestnut Oak Forest, Dry Oak--Hickory Forest, and Pine--Oak/Heath. These summits occassionally grade to Montane Acidic Cliffs.

Montane Acidic Cliff

The Montane Acidic Cliff community is fairly common in the Blue Ridge, but rare in the Piedmont. It occurs on acidic rock types, on terrain steep enough to prevent formation of a closed tree canopy. This community generally occurs on lower to middle slopes, rather than on ridgetops and summits, where it is usually flanked by forest. These cliffs are a mosaic of bare rock and soil accumulations in pockets and crevices. Moisture conditions range from dry to moist, with seepage zones sometimes present. The vegetation is sparse but heterogeneous, with dry-site species often in close proximity to moist-site species. Piedmont examples contain both montane and piedmontane plant species. Typical herbs are Michaux' saxifrage (*Saxifraga michauxii*), oat grass (*Danthonia* spp.), mountain spleenwort (*Asplenium montanum*), little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), and trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*). Herbs from surrounding forests sometimes are also present on these cliffs. Stunted Virginia pine, Table Mountain pine, pitch pine, chestnut oak, Carolina hemlock, sourwood, or downy serviceberry are often sparsely scattered on these cliffs. Crevices and cliff margins may support shrubs such as mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), great rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*), gorge rhododendron (*Rhododendron minus*), sand-myrtle (*Leiophyllum buxifolium*), and blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.). Lower, moist parts of cliffs may support trees such as Canada hemlock and red oak, with a variety of moist-site herbs as well as mosses and lichens on bare rock. Montane Acidic Cliffs often grade to Dry Oak--Hickory Forest, Chestnut Oak Forest, and Pine--Oak/Heath communities. Rare plant species in this community type in Stokes County include the moss translucent orthodontium (*Orthodontium pelluscens*), Bradley's spleenwort (*Asplenium bradleyi*), and Greenland sandwort (*Minuartia groenlandica*).

Piedmont Calcareous Cliff

This community is rare in the North Carolina Piedmont. In addition to examples in Stokes County, only two other examples in Rockingham County are known. The rock types on which the Stokes County examples occur are metagraywacke, a metamorphosed sedimentary rock type with local inclusions of calcium-rich marble. The presence of unusual, cave-like holes in these cliffs provides some evidence for the presence of marble at the Stokes County cliff sites. This community occurs on steep, sometimes very shaley, lower to middle slopes that are typically exposed to weathering and drying. Trees such as red cedar, Virginia pine, chestnut oak, or winged elm may be scattered on these cliffs and at their margins. If present, shrubs may include smooth hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*), fragrant sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), great